

our military leaders, past and present, who also came out strongly in support of this treaty.

This vote is an example of America working as it should, Democrats and Republicans together, putting our country first, reaching across party lines, reaching for the common good. This vote is vivid proof that we are stronger as a nation when we work together. It's true when it comes to our leadership in the world; it's also true when it comes to dealing with our challenges here at home: strengthening our education system, finishing the job of reforming welfare, fighting crime, defending the environment, and finishing the job of balancing the budget.

The Chemical Weapons Convention truly was made in America, under two of my predecessors. It is right for America. Now it has been ratified in America, and it will make our future more secure. For that, on behalf of the American people, I am profoundly grateful to the United States Senate.

#### ***Budget Agreement***

**Q.** Mr. President, Senator Lott said today that, in light of his support of this treaty, that you should show, quote, "similar courage against your base and make budget concessions that might upset Democrats." Are you willing to anger Democrats to balance the budget, if that's what it takes?

**The President.** Well, first of all, a majority of Republicans supported this treaty and all the Democrats. And I think we can get a balanced budget supported by a majority of Republicans and a majority of Democrats in both Houses if we work together in good faith. This was not some unilateral move. This was an honest, good-faith negotiation. We put 28 clarifying conditions on to the treaty that we worked very hard with Senator Lott and others with.

I am—what I am willing to do, I'm willing to work through this process on the budget just the way we worked through this. I'm very encouraged by it, and I think that America should be encouraged by it. If we work together in a very practical way to do what's in the national interest, I think we can get there.

**Q.** Mr. President, how far apart are you right now with the Republican leadership

and the Democrats in Congress in achieving a balanced budget agreement?

**The President.** I don't want to characterize it. They're working hard, and they're working in good faith. And I want to leave it like that.

I'm going to—we're going to talk tomorrow. It's late. Let's go to bed.

#### ***Missing Military Trucks in Texas***

**Q.** Mr. President, we're told that two military trucks are missing tonight, one carrying four unarmed Air Force missiles, the other said to be carrying machine guns and mortar. Mr. President, we're told that they are overdue 3 to 4 days. What's being done to find these trucks, and is foul play suspected?

**The President.** I've just been briefed on it. The FBI is working on it—working hard on it. It's my understanding that one of the trucks has been recovered, and that the other one has weapons that are inert and cannot cause any harm. But we're working on it. We'll have more reports tomorrow.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:51 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

### **Memorandum on Delegation of Responsibilities to the Secretary of State**

*April 24, 1997*

#### ***Memorandum for the Secretary of State***

**Subject:** Delegation to the Secretary of State of the Responsibilities Vested in the President by Section 564 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103-236), as Amended

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, I hereby delegate to you the functions vested in the President by section 564 of the Anti-Economic Discrimination Act of 1994 (AEDA) (title V of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995, Public Law 103-236, as amended).

Any reference in this memorandum to section 564 of the AEDA shall be deemed to

include references to any hereafter-enacted provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such section.

The functions delegated by this memorandum may be redelegated as appropriate.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 25.

### **Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan and an Exchange With Reporters**

*April 25, 1997*

**The President.** Everybody in? Let me say it's a great honor for me to host my friend Prime Minister Hashimoto here at the White House. We had a nice visit last night, and he was here at the time the Chemical Weapons Convention passed, so we shared a moment of celebration. And we have a busy agenda today, and of course we'll have a press conference later and we'll do our best to answer your questions.

But I think it's important to reaffirm that the relationship the United States has with Japan is unique and comprehensive and profoundly important to our future and to the stability and prosperity and peace of the world. And we intend to keep working on it and make it better.

Mr. Prime Minister.

**Prime Minister Hashimoto.** I find myself being a very lucky man. I was lucky enough to be invited by Bill last night, after arriving here in the evening, and I could share the greatest moment with Bill for the wonderful passage of the splendid Convention in the Senate. The fact that I was able to share that wonderful moment together with the President, itself, makes my trip to Washington worthwhile.

I see all the familiar and very inquisitive faces in this room, so there will be many questions asked of me, but even with that fact, I'm very happy that I was able to share the moment with the President last night. And last night I was very appreciative of the

kindness of Bill because he got Mickey Kantor on the phone without any fighting between us. [Laughter]

**The President.** He tried to get him to switch sides, but he didn't do it. [Laughter]

### **China-Russia Relations**

**Q.** Mr. President, does the U.S. or Japan have any reason to be concerned about the treaty between China and Russia?

**The President.** Well, my view is that the United States should have a partnership over the long run for stability in the Asia-Pacific region that includes our longstanding alliance with Japan and a positive relationship with both Russia and with China. And as long as any agreement they make is consistent with that kind of positive partnership and is not directed in any negative way toward their neighbors, I think that we don't have anything to worry about.

Mr. Prime Minister?

**Prime Minister Hashimoto.** I wonder if there's anything I could add to that wonderful statement. That was a splendid answer to the question, I believe. If I may add, I think that the summit between the President and President Yeltsin in Helsinki was a great contributor not just to the stability in Europe but also the stability for the entire world.

I think the President gave a succinct answer describing the situation of the moment. It's very important that Russia and the European countries have a stable relationship. We are in the transitional period of great change. We are trying to engage, for example, China as a constructive partner in international society, and we're transforming the G-7 summit to the Summit of Eight. So in that context, I think the President gave an excellent answer to your question.

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President.** We'll answer the others later. We're going to have a press conference later.

**Q.** —Governor Weld as Ambassador to Mexico?

**The President.** We're going to have a press conference later, and I'll answer all the questions. We have to work.

[At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.]